Purchase of Mirage 2000 Aircrafts

1317. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the action taken to purchase 10 Mirage 2000 aircrafts pending for long; and

(b) the reasons for undue delay in replacement?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Government have approved the procurement of 10 Mirage 2000 aircrafts. The first batch of six aircrafts has already been received.

Procurement of IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft

1318. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force has recently taken delivery of 5 IL-78 refueller from Uzbekistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of refuellers that Indian Air Force are now having with the latest acquisition; and

(d) the delay in acquiring these aircrafts since the agreement was signed in March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Recently, only one IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft was delivered.

(c) Five IL-78 Refuelling Aircraft have already been inducted in the Air Force.

(d) Government concluded a contract for the procurement of six IL-78 Flight Refuelling Aircraft (FRA) in February, 2001. There was a delay of about 8 months in the delivery of the third and fourth aircraft. The sixth aircraft, which was scheduled for delivery in November, 2004, is now expected during December, 2004.